

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /049 W

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R 081030Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY COTONOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8366

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L COTONOU 0617

DEPT ALSO PASS AID/AFR/CWR

EO 11 22: GDS

TAGS: EAID, DM, US, EEC, FR, AL

SUBJ: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLADAYE VISITS EEC, PARIS AND ALGIERS

REF (A) STATE 78474 (NOTAL), (B) COTONOU 526 (NOTAL),

1. THE LOCAL MEDIA SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING OF APRIL 7 CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING ITEM: QTE: THE FORNMIN REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL OF THE RESULTS, WHICH CAN BE CONSIDERED VER POSITIVE, OF THE MISSION HE RECENTLY LED TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE EEC IN BRUEALES, THE FAC (FRENCH AID AGENCY) IN PARIS AND TO THE ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES. CONCERNING ALGERIA, IT WAS ABOVE ALL A QUESTION OF WAYS AND MEANS OF STARTING AGAIN AND MAKING THE COMMERCIAL, ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES MORE DYNAMIC.

2. INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY THE CHIEF OF STATE TO THE CONCERNED MINISTERS FOR THE EXPLOITATION OF THE MISSION'S REPORT AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE URGENT MEASURES PROPOSED BY THE CHIEF BENINESE DIPLOMAT. END QUOTE

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3. TL MISSION TO ALGERIA IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN TO OBTAIN

BENIN'S PAYOFF FOR SUPPORT ON THE SAHARA QUESTION.

4. WE KNOW FROM THE FRENCH EMBASSY THAT THE VISIT TO THE FAC IN PARIS WAS DECIDED DURING THE MARCH 24 DISCUSSIONS IN COTONOU WITH FRENCH COOPERATION MIN DE KIPKOWSKI. ITS PURPOSE WAS TO TRY TO GET THE CREDIT (FRENCH COMPANY WHICH RAN THE COTTON INDUSTRY UNTIL EXPELLED IN 1973) TO RETURN TO BENIN.

5. THOUGH THE DIR OF THE PLAN DID NOT INCLUDE REQUEST FOR EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND (FED) FUNDING OF SHORTFALL ON COTONOU BRIDGE PROJECT (REF B), IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF ALLADAYE WENT DIRECTLY TO BRUSSELS TO BRING IT UP. COTONOU OFFICE OF THE FED KNEW NOTHING OF THE VISIT NOT EVEN WHEN IT TOOK PLACE.

WE PRESUME IT WAS DURING WEEK OF MARCH 29-APRIL 2.

6. FYI: EMBASSY RECENTLY RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM FORNMIN-ISTRY REQUESTING CORRECT TITLE AND ADDRESS OF THE HEAD OF AID IN WASHINGTON. WHEN ASKED THE REASON FOR THE REQUEST, MINOFFICER SAID IT WAS "PERSONAL". WE CONJECTURE THIS WAS ALSO CONNECTED WITH COTONOU BRIDGE PROJECT, AND THAT GPRB MAY BE PLANNING DIRECT APPROACH TO AID AMINISTRATOR ON THE MATTER.

7. FOR USMISSION EC: WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD DETERMINE FROM CONTACTS IN FED IF BENIN FORNMIN RAISED QUESTION OF FED FINANCING OF APPROACHES TO AID FUNDED COTONOU BRIDGE. (NOTE: FED ALREADY SCHEDULED TO DO THE ROADS CONNECTING BRIDGE WITH MAIN HIGHWAY).
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